Calendar No. 185

102D CONGRESS
1st Session

SENATE

REPORT
102–123

DISAPPROVING THE RECOMMENDATIONS OF THE DEFENSE BASE CLOSURE AND REALIGNMENT COMMISSION

JULY 25 (legislative day, JULY 8), 1991.—Ordered to be printed

Mr. NUNN, from the Committee on Armed Services, submitted the following

REPORT

[To accompany S.J. Res. 175]

The Committee on Armed Services, to which was referred the resolution disapproving the recommendations of the Defense Base Closure and Realignment Commission, having considered the same, reports unfavorably thereon and recommends that the resolution do not pass.

BACKGROUND

The Defense Base Closure and Realignment Act (title XXIX of the National Defense Authorization Act for Fiscal Year 1991) establishes a procedure for Congressional consideration of the recommendations of the Defense Base Closure and Realignment Commission, as submitted to Congress by the President.

Under the Act, the recommendations of the Commission take effect absent enactment of a resolution of disapproval. Such a resolution may be considered only if it is introduced within 10 days of the President's submission to Congress of the Commission's recommendations. If such a resolution is introduced, it is referred to the Committee on Armed Services. If the Committee on Armed Services does not act by the end of the 20-day period beginning on the date on which the President transmits the Commission's recommendations to Congress, it is discharged from further consideration and the resolution is placed on the Senate calendar. Once placed on the Senate calendar, the Resolution is subject to consideration under expedited procedures set forth in the Act.

49-010

S203-12.

The Defense Base Closure and Realignment Commission has recommended the closure of 34 military installations within the United States and the realignment of 48 others. The Commission's recommendations were approved by the President and submitted to Congress on July 10, 1991 (House Document 102–7).

A timely resolution of disapproval, S.J. Res. 175, was introduced by Senators Specter and Wofford on July 10, and was referred to the Committee on Armed Services on the same date.

COMMITTEE PROCEEDINGS

The Committee on Armed Services has closely monitored the base closure process. All of the milestones established by the Defense Base Closure and Realignment Act have been met:

On November 30, 1990, the Secretary of Defense circulated proposed selection criteria for comment. Members of the Committee commented on the criteria.

On February 15, 1991, the Secretary of Defense published the final selection criteria in the *Federal Register*.

On March 19, the Secretary of Defense submitted to Congress the Department's long-term force structure plan.

In March and April, the Committee held confirmation hearings on the individuals nominated by the President to serve on the Commission.

On April 12, the Secretary of Defense released his recommendations to close 43 bases in the United States and realign 29 others. The Committee monitored the Commission's deliberations on these recommendations. Many Members of the Committee testified before the Commission.

On July 1, the Commission transmitted its recommendations to the President, and the President forwarded these recommendations to Congress on July 10.

On July 23, the Committee held a hearing to consider S.J. Res. 175. Witnesses included the following Commission members: Chairman James A. Courter, Commissioner Arthur Levitt, Jr., and Commissioner William F. Ball, III. Other witnesses representing the Department of Defense were: Colin R. McMillan, Assistant Secretary of Defense (Production and Logistics); Susan M. Livingstone, Assistant Secretary of the Army (Installations, Logistics and Environment); Jacqueline E. Schafer, Assistant Secretary of the Navy (Installations and Environment); and James F. Boatright, Deputy Assistant Secretary of the Air Force (Installations). In addition, Senators Arlen Specter and Harris Wofford made presentations to the Committee during this hearing.

On July 25, the Committee met to consider S.J. Res. 175. The Committee carefully considered the Commission's recommendations in the context of the Defense Base Closure and Realignment Act. Under the Act's unique procedures, the opportunity to achieve substantial savings will not be available for the balance of the 102d Congress if the resolution of disapproval is enacted.

The Administration's current Future Year Defense Plan calls for reductions of approximately 25 percent in the size of the active duty military Services. With these reductions in the size of our military forces, it is also essential to reduce the size of our basing

structure. The Committee concluded that the long-term national security interests of the United States, at a time of declining resources for national defense activities, would be best served through implementation of the Commission's recommendations.

COMMITTEE ACTION

In accordance with the Legislative Reorganization Act of 1946, as amended by the Legislative Reorganization Act of 1970, there is set forth below the committee vote to report unfavorably the resolution.

In favor: Senators Nunn, Exon, Levin, Bingaman, Dixon, Glenn, Gore, Wirth, Shelby, Byrd, Warner, Thurmond, Wallop, Lott, Coats, Mack, and Smith.

Opposed: Senators Kennedy, Cohen, and McCain.

Vote: 17–3.

FISCAL DATA

In compliance with sections 308 and 403 of the Congressional Budget Act of 1974, and paragraph 11(a) of rule XXVI of the Standing Rules of the Senate, the following letter has been received from the Congressional Budget Office regarding the budgetary impact of the resolution:

U.S. CONGRESS
CONGRESSIONAL BUDGET OFFICE,
Washington, DC, July 25, 1991.

Hon. SAM NUNN,
Chairman, Committee on Armed Services, U.S. Senate, Washington, DC.

DEAR MR. CHAIRMAN: The Congressional Budget Office has examined S.J. Res. 175, a resolution disapproving the recommendations of the Defense Base Closure and Realignment Commission, as ordered reported by the Senate Armed Services Committee on July 25, 1991.

The Defense Base Closure and Realignment Act of 1990 set up a process by which military installations would be recommended for closure or realignment by an independent commission. These recommendations would be implemented by the Department of Defense (DoD) unless Congress were to enact a joint resolution disapproving them.

On July 1, 1991, the Commission released its recommendations, which called for closing 34 installations and realigning activities at 48 others. According to the Commission's analysis, these actions would save $2.3 billion between 1992 and 1997 and $1.5 billion annually after that.

Under current law, if no action is taken by Congress, DoD will begin closing and realigning the affected bases in 1992. If S.J. Res. 175 is enacted, however, it would cost money relative to current law in that savings from the base closures would be forgone. CBO has not prepared an independent estimate of the magnitude of the costs involved.

This resolution does not affect direct spending or receipts in 1991–1995; therefore, it has no pay-as-you-go implications under section 252 of the Budget Enforcement Act.

We will be pleased to provide additional information about this estimate. The CBO staff contact is Mary Helen Petrus who can be reached at 226–2840.

Sincerely,

ROBERT D. REISCHAUER,
Director.

REGULATORY IMPACT

In compliance with paragraph 11(b) of rule XXVI of the Standing Rules of the Senate, the Committee states that there is no regulatory impact with respect to the resolution.

CHANGES IN EXISTING LAW

In compliance with paragraph 12 of rule XXVI of the Standing Rules of the Senate, the Committee states that no changes in existing law are made by this legislation.

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